

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system comprising:
a bus;
a display device coupled to the bus to display video images;
a processor coupled to the bus;
a wireless communications interface coupled to the bus; and
a device driver coupled to the wireless communications interface, the device driver, including a pointer display unit to display a pointer on the display device in response to an active signal received from the wireless communications interface, the active signal being independent of any position direction and any option selection, the pointer display unit also to stop displaying the pointer in response to not receiving the active signal to allow video images to be displayed on the display device unobstructed by the pointer.
2. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein the device driver further comprises a timer unit to allow the pointer display unit to stop displaying the pointer after a predefined period of time after the active signal is not received from the wireless communications interface.
3. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein the device driver further comprises a pointer positioning unit to move a position of the pointer presented on the display device in response to position signals received from wireless communications interface.

4. The computer system of Claim 3, wherein the device driver further comprises a selection indication unit to notify the computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals from the wireless communications interface.

5. The computer system of Claim 1, further comprising a remote wireless pointing device, the wireless communications interface receiving the active signals from the remote pointing device.

6. The computer system of Claim 5, wherein the active signal is indicative of the pointing device being held.

7. The computer system of Claim 5, wherein the active signal is indicative of a pressure sensor on the pointing device being depressed.

8. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein the pointer display unit monitors the wireless communications interface for the active signal.

9. A device driver for a pointing device, comprising:

a pointer display unit to display a pointer on a display device of an entertainment system in response to an active signal received from the pointing device, the active signal being independent of any position direction and any option selection;

the pointer display unit also to stop displaying the pointer in response to not receiving the active signal to allow video images to be displayed on the display device unobstructed by the pointer.

10. The driver of Claim 9, further comprising a timer unit to allow the pointer display unit to stop displaying the pointer after a predefined period of time after the

active signal is not received from the pointing device, the active signal being indicative of the pointing device being held.

11. The driver of Claim 9, further comprising a pointer positioning unit to move a position of a pointer presented on the display device in response to position signals received from the pointing device.

12. The driver of Claim 11, further comprising a selection indication unit to notify a computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals received from the pointing device.

13. The driver of Claim 12, wherein the pointer display unit, the pointer positioning unit, and the selection indication unit reside on a single semiconductor substrate.

14. The driver of Claim 9, wherein the active signal is indicative of the pointing device being held.

15. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

displaying a pointer on a display device of an entertainment system in response to an active signal received from a pointing device, the active signal being independent of any position direction and any option selection;

stopping the pointer display in response to not receiving the active signal to allow video images to be displayed on the display device unobstructed by the pointer.

16. The medium of Claim 15, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising

stopping the pointer display after a predefined period of time after the active signal is not received from the pointing device.

17. The medium of Claim 15, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising moving the position of the pointer in response to position signals received from the pointing device.

18. The medium of Claim 17, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising notifying a computer system that a selectable identifier on the display device has been selected in response to selection signals received from the pointing device.

19. A method comprising:

determining whether a pointing device is being handled without a selection or position change being indicated;

displaying the pointer on a display device if the pointing device is being handled without a selection or position change being indicated; and

hiding the pointer on the display device if the pointing device is not being handled.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein determining whether the pointing device is being handled comprises monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing device, the active signal indicating that the pointing device is being handled without a selection or position change being indicated.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein determining whether the pointing device is being handled comprises monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing

device, the active signal indicating that a pressure sensor on the pointing device is being depressed.

22. The method of Claim 19, wherein determining whether the pointing device is being handled comprises monitoring an interface for an active signal from the pointing device, the active signal indicating that a motion sensor on the pointing device is being triggered.

23. The method of Claim 19, wherein hiding the pointer comprises hiding the pointer on the display device after a predetermined period of time after the pointing device has stopped being handled.

24. A wireless remote control unit for an entertainment system comprising:
a sensor unit that generates an active signal to display a pointer on a display device of the entertainment system independent of the selection of any position direction, any command, and any option; and
a transmission unit, coupled to the navigation unit, to transmit the active signal to a wireless receiver of an entertainment system.

25. The unit of Claim 24, wherein the sensor unit comprises a pressure sensor.

26. The unit of Claim 25, wherein the pressure sensor is located where a person using the pointing device would have to depress it.

27. The unit of Claim 25, wherein the pressure sensor is located on the bottom of the pointing device.

28. The unit of Claim 24, wherein the sensor unit comprises a motion sensor.

29. The unit of Claim 24, further comprising a navigation unit to generate position signals to direct the position of the pointer on the display device and wherein the

transmission unit further transmits the position signals to the wireless receiver of the entertainment system.

30. The unit of Claim 29, wherein the navigation unit comprises a trackball.

31. The unit of Claim 29, wherein the navigation unit comprises a finger pad.

32. The unit of Claim 29, wherein the navigation unit comprises a plurality of navigation buttons.

33. The unit of Claim 24, further comprising a selection unit to generate selection signals indicating a selection of an option related to the position of the pointer on the display device and wherein the transmission unit further transmits the selection signals to the wireless receiver of the entertainment system.

34. A pointing device, comprising:

a navigation unit to generate position signals indicating where a pointer is to be directed on a display device;

a selection unit to generate selection signals indicating when a selection is made;

a sensor unit, independent of the navigation unit and the selection unit, to generate an active signal indicating that the pointing device is being handled; and

a transmission unit coupled to the navigation unit, the selection unit and the sensor unit to receive the position signals, the selection signals and the active signal and transmit them to a remote location.

35. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the position signals describe a coordinate on a defined coordinate system of the display device to move the pointer.

36. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the navigation unit comprises at least one of a trackball, a touch pad, a joystick, and a plurality of navigation buttons.

37. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the selection unit comprises a button so that a user can make a selection by positioning the pointer with the navigation unit and pushing the selection button.

38. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the selection signals are effective to notify a computer system at the remote location that a selectable identifier on a display device has been selected.

39. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the sensor unit is triggered when the pointing device is being used.

40. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the sensor unit is triggered whenever the navigation unit or the selection unit is being used.

41. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the sensor unit comprises a pressure sensor.

42. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the pressure sensor is located where a person using the pointing device would have to depress it.

43. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the pressure sensor is located on the bottom of the pointing device.

44. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the sensor unit comprises a motion sensor.

45. The pointing device of Claim 34, wherein the transmission unit transmits to a wireless interface of an entertainment system.

46. The pointing device of Claim 45, wherein the active signal is effective to display the pointer on a display device of the entertainment system.